

Borough of Weston-super-Mare
Annual
Health Report



FOR THE YEAR

1940

INCLUDING THE

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

A. E. REMMETT WEAVER, M.D., D.P.H.,


THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

H. W. BLADON, F.S.I.A.,

AND THE

Meteorological Report



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Borough of Weston-super-Mare.

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1939—1940.

Chairman : Councillor W. B. CRAIG.

Vice-chairman : Councillor E. M. SMITH.

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alderman B. T. BUTTER | Councillor A. J. HEYBYRNE |
| Alderman P. E. CULLING | Councillor T. A. JONES |
| Alderman J. J. LEAVER | Councillor W. C. SLEEP |
| Councillor MRS. M. BROWN | Councillor E. M. SMITH |
| Councillor L. S. BROWN | Councillor J. C. WALKER |
| Councillor G. WOOD. | |

His Worship the Mayor, Alderman J. G. WESTERN, J.P.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1939—1940.

Chairman : Councillor MRS. M. BROWN.

All Members of the Health Committee with the following co-opted ladies :—

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| LADY DAVIES | MRS. M. E. LUCAS |
| MRS. J. L. EDMUNDS | MRS. A. MACFARLANE |
| MRS. A. J. HEYBYRNE | MRS. W. J. SCOTTON |

EVACUATION COMMITTEE, 1940—1941.

Chairman : His Worship the Mayor, Councillor E M Trevor

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alderman P. E. CULLING | Councillor W. B. CRAIG |
| Alderman J. J. LEAVER | Councillor F. H. GREEN |
| Alderman A. E. LOCK | Councillor A. J. HEYBYRNE |
| Councillor MRS. M. BROWN | Councillor W. C. SLEEP |

Assistant Billeting Officer : MR C. P. OXLEY.

Town Clerk and Chief Billeting Officer :

MR. LAWRENCE G. WATSON.

Borough Treasurer : MR. A. G. MILTON.

Borough Engineer & Surveyor : MR. HAROLD A. BROWN.

Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health and Superintendent of Isolation Hospital and of "Allandale" Maternity Home.

A. E. REMMETT WEAVER‡, M.D., D.P.H.

Obstetric Consultant. HUGH POWELL, M.B.E., M.D. M.R.C.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Meat Inspector, and Drainage Inspector. H. W. BLADON‡, Fellow Sanitary Inspector's Association.

Sanitary Inspector. CHAS. E. URCH‡, Sanitary Inspector's and Meat Inspector's Certificates, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Abattoir Superintendent and Sanitary Inspector. IVOR A. STEPHENSON‡, Meat Inspector's and Sanitary Inspector's Certificates, Royal Sanitary Institute.

Chief Health Visitor. MISS DORIS E. DALLAWAY, State Registered Nurse, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

Health Visitors. MRS. ANNIE M. BISHOP, State Registered Nurse, Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

MISS G. M. HARVEY, State Registered Nurse, Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, and Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors.

Temporary Health Visitors. Miss ANNIE E. ROSSITER, Certificate of Central Midwives Board, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute for Health Visitors. (Retired February, 1940).

‡Salary Contribution by Exchequer grants.

MRS. A. E. WOOD, State Registered Nurse. (Transferred to Welfare Department at end of January).

MRS. D. SITSON, State Registered Nurse, Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, Registered Fever Nurse. (Part-time to September, whole-time from October 1st).

MISS B. M. WEBBER, Certificate of the Central Midwives Board, L.C.A.T.M. (Commenced duties on Dec. 2nd).

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Matron, MISS A. MANEY, State Registered Nurse and Registered Fever Nurse, and Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

ALLANDALE MATERNITY HOME. Obstetric Officers, Hugh Powell, M.B.E., M.D., M.R.C.S. RICHARD M. ALFORD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Matron, MISS I. D. ALLEN, State Registered Nurse, Certificate of Central Midwives Board.

CLARE HOUSE SICK-BAY. Matron, MRS. M. C. McCLELLAND, State Registered Nurse, Registered Fever Nurse.

NURSERY CENTRES, Superintendent, MISS E. W. THOMAS.

Chief Clerk. MISS D. B. POWELL.

Clerks. MISS J. R. STOWER and MISS B. LLOYD.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith the Annual Report for 1940, which is the twelfth I have prepared. Owing to the continuation of war conditions the Ministry of Health have asked for reports again to be of an interim character. Accordingly most of the usual subjects of report have been dealt with in outline and some have been omitted, while only an abstract of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report has been printed. As, however, this is the last report I shall prepare and my term of office extended to the end of August, 1941, I have deemed it well for continuity of record to treat some of the more important subjects in which I have been specially concerned, such as Evacuation, Infectious Diseases, and Diphtheria Immunisation, more fully and up to the date of my retirement.

In the Annual Report for 1935, the year of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the late King George Vth., I gave a health survey of the 25 years from 1910 to 1925. I had hoped in my last report to have reviewed in some detail the facilities and difficulties (particularly those paralysing ones created by the financial crisis of the early 1930s, and the Council not being the Local Education Authority) experienced in developing the health services of the Town during my period of office. Such a survey, however, would be too long for insertion in this war-time, outline report, but I shall prepare it so that it may be available for use when the comprehensive report of the public health of the Town during the war years falls to be prepared.

During my twelve years as Medical Officer of Health I have been gratified to receive much support, assistance and co-operation from many former and present members of the Council and the Council staff. In particular I wish to express indebtedness to Councillor W. Bernard Craig, Chairman of the Health Committee ; Mr. A. G. Milton, Borough Treasurer ; Mr. H. L. Lloyd, Deputy Surveyor ; Mr. C. P. Oxley, Assistant Billeting Officer ; and the members of the Staff of the Health Department, among whom I must specially mention Miss Dallaway, Chief Health Visitor ; Mr. H. W. Bladon, Chief Sanitary Inspector ; Mr. Charles Urch, Sanitary Inspector ; and Mr. Ivor A. Stephenson, Abattoir Superintendent.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully

A. E. REMMETT WEAVER.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1940

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-----|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|
| LIVE BIRTHS. | Legitimate | M. | F. | Total. | Birth-rate 11.17 per 1,000 |
| | Illegitimate | 217 | 205 | 422 | |
| | Total | 18 | 16 | 34 | |
| | | 235 | 221 | 456 | |
| STILL BIRTHS | Legitimate | 6 | 11 | 17 | Rate per 1,000 total births. 39.4 |
| | Illegitimate | 1 | — | 1 | |
| | Total | 7 | 11 | 18 | |
| | | | | | |
| DEATHS | | | | | Death-rate 14.9 per 1,000 |
| | | | | | Adjusted death-rate 11.3 |
| Deaths from Puerperal Causes : | | | | | Rate per 1,000 total births |
| Puerperal Sepsis | | | | | — |
| Other Puerperal Causes | | | | | — |
| Total | | | | | — |
| Death-rate of infants under one year of age: | | | | | |
| All Infants per 1,000 live births | | | | | 60.9 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births | | | | | 61.2 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | | | | | 57.1 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | | | | | 74 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | | | | | 0 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | | | | | 1 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) | | | | | 5 |

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S TABLE.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES & ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1940.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

| | England and Wales | 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London. | 148 Smaller Towns Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census. | London Adminis- trative County. |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| | Rates per 1,000 Population. | | | |
| Births :— | | | | |
| Live | 14.6 | 16.6 | 15.7 | 13.7 |
| Still | 0.55 | 0.64 | 0.55 | 0.44 |
| Deaths :— | | | | |
| All causes | 14.3 | 15.8 | 12.8 | 17.8 |
| Typhoid and Para- typhoid fevers | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Small-pox | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.01 |
| Scarlet fever | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Whooping Cough | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.30 |
| Diphtheria | 0.06 | 0.07 | 0.05 | 0.01 |
| Influenza | 0.32 | 0.29 | 0.30 | 0.18 |
| | Rates per 1,000 Live Births. | | | |
| Deaths under 1 year of age | 55 | 61 | 54 | 50 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age | 4.6 | 5.9 | 4.4 | 5.8 |
| | England and Wales Rate per 1000 Total Births | | | |
| Maternal Mortality :— | | | | |
| Puerperal Infection | | 0.52 | | |
| Others | | 1.64 | | |
| Total | | 2.16 | | |

Vital Statistics.

POPULATION.

| | | Total. | Males. | Females. |
|------|---|--------|----------------|----------|
| 1921 | Census (June) | 34,039 | 13,502 | 20,537 |
| 1931 | Census (April) | 31,706 | 12,939 | 18,767 |
| 1933 | Mid-year : Registrar-General's Estimate | 32,010 | ..... | ..... |
| 1934 | „ „ | 32,330 | ..... | ..... |
| 1935 | „ „ | 32,490 | ..... | ..... |
| 1936 | „ „ | 32,340 | ..... | ..... |
| 1937 | „ „ | 32,680 | ..... | ..... |
| 1938 | „ „ | 32,690 | ..... | ..... |
| 1939 | „ „ | 33,360 | For Birth Rate | |
| | | 35,280 | For Death Rate | |
| 1940 | „ „ | 40,810 | | |

The Registrar-General has estimated the mid-year population at 40,810. Separate estimates for the calculation of the birth rate and the death rate have not been supplied for 1940.

The population at risk varied considerably during the year and, though the average or midyear population must for statistical purposes be taken to be the Registrar-General's estimate of 40,810, this figure is possibly, or probably, nearer the minimum at any time, than the average for the whole year. Analyses of the food registrations showed 42,559 civilian ration cards in force at the beginning of the year and 52,675 in November, 1940. The war-time additions to the civil population may be grouped into three classes : 1. *Official Evacuees*. As detailed in the section on "Evacuation" (p. 13) the number of evacuees billeted under the Government Scheme varied from 2,400 at the beginning of the year to a minimum of 1,790 in June and a maximum of 7,244 in December.

2. *Labourers and Factory Workers*. A variable but growing number imported and billeted for the Ministry of Labour.

3. *Unofficial Evacuees*. Under this convenient, but possibly misleading, term may be included : Employees of businesses temporarily moved into the Borough ; persons or families from dangerous areas on the south and east coasts ; and wives and families of service men who had gone abroad, or were stationed in the western counties—many of these evacuees were staying with relatives or friends who preferred to accommodate them, rather than have strangers billeted on them. The number of unofficial evacuees has been estimated at more than 9,000, but it was probably at least 6 to 7,000.

BIRTHS.

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | Average. 1928-37 |
|----------------------------|-------|------|------|---------------------|
| Number of births | 456 | 397 | 375 | 305 |
| Birth-rate | 11.17 | 11.9 | 11.4 | 10.2 |
| Birth-rate England & Wales | 14.6 | 15.0 | 15.1 | 15.4 |

REGISTERED BIRTHS. After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar-General credited to the Borough for the past year 456 live births (235 boys and 221 girls) and of these 34 were illegitimate (18 boys and 16 girls). The registered still births were 18 (7 boys and 11 girls), of which number one boy was illegitimate.

The birth-rate for 1940 was 11.1 per 1000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. This rate is lower than for the last two years and much below the rate for the whole county (14.6), and for the 148 smaller towns (15.7).

NOTIFIED BIRTHS. The accompanying statistics give details of the notifications of births during 1940.

NOTIFICATIONS OF BIRTHS. 1940.

| | |
|--|-----|
| Notifications (including still births) total | 530 |
| Notifications by doctors | 164 |
| Notifications by midwives | 366 |
| Still births | 18 |
| Live births | 512 |

| Month. | LIVE BIRTHS. STILL BIRTHS. | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-----|-----|----|----|
| | Total. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| January | 44 | 24 | 19 | — | 1 |
| February | 41 | 19 | 21 | — | 1 |
| March | 47 | 29 | 15 | 2 | 1 |
| April | 48 | 22 | 24 | 2 | — |
| May | 36 | 20 | 15 | — | 1 |
| June | 43 | 23 | 19 | 1 | — |
| July | 43 | 20 | 20 | 2 | 1 |
| August | 44 | 20 | 23 | — | 1 |
| September | 39 | 22 | 15 | — | 2 |
| October | 42 | 18 | 23 | — | 1 |
| November | 54 | 25 | 28 | — | 1 |
| December | 49 | 16 | 32 | — | 1 |
| | 530 | 258 | 254 | 7 | 11 |

DEATHS.

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | Average. 1928—37 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|---------------------|
| Number of deaths | 610 | 496 | 496 | 393 |
| Crude death-rate | 14.9 | 14.1 | 15.1 | 13.1 |
| Adjusted death-rate | 11.3 | 10.7 | 11.5 | 10.0 |
| Death-rate England & Wales | 14.3 | 12.1 | 11.6 | 12.1 |

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the Borough last year was 545. After deducting the deaths of "non-residents," and adding the deaths in institutions and other places outside the Borough the Registrar-General assigned to Weston-super-Mare a net total of 610 deaths, of which 278 were of males and 332 of females.

The 610 deaths represented a crude death-rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. When adjusted for sex and age distribution, to make it comparable with other districts, the local death-rate was 11.3. This rate, as usual, compares favourably with the death-rate for the whole county (14.3) and of the smaller towns (12.8).

CAUSES OF DEATH. The accompanying table gives the causes of death as classified by the Registrar-General.

**CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOROUGH OF
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.**

Registrar-General's Classification and Figures.

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | | | | | 1940 | |
|------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | | Males. | Females. |
| ALL CAUSES | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 610 | 278 | 332 |
| 1 | Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 2 | Cerebro-spinal Fever | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | Scarlet Fever | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 4 | Whooping Cough | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 5 | Diphtheria | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 8 |
| 7 | Other Forms of Tuberculosis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 3 |
| 8 | Syphilitic Diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — |
| 9 | Influenza | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 15 | 9 |
| 10 | Measles | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — |
| 11 | Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 12 | Acute infectious Encephalitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 1 |
| 13 | Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (male) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | — |
| | „ „ uterus (female) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 3 |
| 14 | „ „ stomach and duodenum | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | 4 |
| 15 | „ „ breast | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 11 |
| 16 | „ „ all other sites | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19 | 26 |
| 17 | Diabetes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 6 |
| 18 | Intra-cranial vascular diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 24 | 49 |
| 19 | Heart Diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 70 | 85 |
| 20 | Other circulatory diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 3 |
| 21 | Bronchitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 27 | 33 |
| 22 | Pneumonia | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | 8 |
| 23 | Other respiratory diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 2 |
| 24 | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 1 |
| 25 | Diarrhoea—under 2 years | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3 | 2 |
| 26 | Appendicitis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 1 |
| 27 | Other digestive diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 7 | 7 |
| 28 | Nephritis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 14 | 16 |
| 29 | Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 30 | Other maternal causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | — |
| 31 | Premature birth | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6 | 3 |
| 32 | Congenital malformations, birth injuries and infant diseases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | 5 |
| 33 | Suicide | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 | — |
| 34 | Road traffic accidents | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | 1 |
| 35 | Other violent causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 12 | 10 |
| 36 | All other causes | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 | 31 |

RESIDENT POPULATION Mid-Year, 1940 :

40,810

INQUESTS. The inquests held by the Coroner in the Borough last year numbered 50, of which 32 were upon residents and 18 upon non-residents. Four inquests upon Weston-super-Mare residents were held outside the District. The 36 inquests upon residents represented 8.8 per cent. of the total number of deaths. The following is a summary of the results of all the inquests :—

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | M. | F. | Total. |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Natural causes | 17 | 2 | 19 |
| Accidents— | | | |
| Asphyxia | — | 2 | 2 |
| Coal Gas Poisoning | 1 | — | 1 |
| Drowning | — | 2 | 2 |
| Falls | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| Fire arms | 1 | — | 1 |
| Road Traffic | 9 | 3 | 12 |
| Other | 4 | — | 4 |
| Shock— | | | |
| From exposure | — | 1 | 1 |
| Surgical | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Suicide— | | | |
| Drowning | 1 | — | 1 |
| Fire arms | 1 | — | 1 |
| Hanging | 1 | — | 1 |
| TOTAL | 38 | 16 | 54 |

INFANT MORTALITY.

| | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | Average 1928—37 |
|---|------|------|------|--------------------|
| Number of Infant deaths | 30 | 20 | 19 | 13.6 |
| Infant mortality | 60.9 | 48.0 | 50.6 | 44.4 |
| Infant mortality England and Wales | 55 | 50 | 53 | 63 |

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered last year was 30 (18 boys and 12 girls) of whom 1 boy and 1 girl were illegitimate. These 30 deaths represent an infant mortality rate of 60.9 per 1,000 live births. This rate is the highest since 1919 with the exception of 74.7 in 1926 and 71.4 in 1929, and, as is most unusual, higher than the rate for England and Wales. For the last 45 years the infant mortality has been low in Weston as compared with the whole country, and only in 1916 and 1926 was the Weston rate higher, and then only slightly higher, than in England and Wales, while the local infant mortality rate fell to the exceptionally small figure of 33.8 in 1922, of 31.5 in 1928 and 25.7 in 1936.

The infant mortality rate has been regarded as an index of the social welfare and sanitary administration of a district, for, unlike birth and death rates, it is free from estimates, and based on definite and easily ascertainable data. Weston's comparatively high rate in 1940, however, is no criterion of the town's normal health conditions for the rate has been raised by an excess of infant deaths due to crowding into the town of many mothers and families urgently evacuated from London and other towns ; and it is probable that, but for the excellent work done by the Health Visitors among the mothers and children in billets and family houses, the infant mortality would have been greater.

The pictures presented by analyses of the ages at, and of the causes of, death among the 30 infants who died under one year of age, are unlike those described in previous reports as usual in this town. Of recent years the neo-natal mortality, which is largely not preventable, has been relatively large, and the mortality of infants of one month and over, which is largely preventable, has been small and decreasing—*e.g.*, in 1935 of 14 infants who died only one was over 1 month old. (See page 15, 1934 Report). In 1940 these conditions were reversed, and the excess of infant deaths occurred at ages at which, under the conditions normally prevailing in the town, there would have been very few deaths.

During 1940 three inquests were held concerning three accidental deaths of infants—one due to injury to the child's head and two to asphyxia. There were also 5 deaths due to bronchitis or bronco-pneumonia and 5 due to gastro-enteritis or infantile diarrhoea, an unusual cause of death in Weston—there were no deaths due to diarrhoea during the five years 1933-37, and only one in the 6 years, and only 8 in the eleven years preceding the war.

Evacuation.

In his report for 1939 the Medical Officer of Health gave an account of the operation and public health aspects in the Borough of the primary evacuation in September of that year. In the present Report the further evacuations carried out in 1940 and the billeting conditions up to August, 1941 are summarised—the two Reports constituting a review of the first two years local operation of the Government Evacuation Scheme.

As the review has been written from the public health angle the factors which have adversely affected the health of the Town may seem to have been given undue prominence. If so, it is with no desire to detract from the amazing amount of good work done so readily and freely by so many. That the unique social experiment of literally dumping large numbers of various classes of city and town dwellers into a seaside resort should have been, on the whole, a really great success was due primarily to the readiness of the householders in general to take in evacuees at very low rates of payment and do their best for them, and to the public spirit and devotion of the Council and the Council staff, of very many members of our social and welfare organisations, and of numerous other voluntary workers in helping to receive, billet, entertain, and carry out welfare duties for the evacuees.

CLASSES AND NUMBERS OF EVACUEES

The total number of persons received from London areas during the four days September 1st to 4th, 1939 was 6,021. Soon after the completion of the reception a drift back to their homes of evacuees, particularly of mothers with young children, commenced ; and, in the absence of the anticipated air-raids on London, increased in volume so that by December 11th only 3,264 remained, and this number was further substantially reduced during the Christmas season by many school children and mothers going to London, ostensibly for a holiday, and never returning.

The year now under review, 1940, commenced with between 2,400 and 2,500 official evacuees billeted in the Borough. A census taken on January 26th, 1940, showed a reduction to 2,250—1,645 unaccompanied school children with 159 teachers and helpers, and 191 mothers with 255 young children ; and there was a still further decline in the total number to 1,790 before the second phase of the reception of evacuees commenced in June.

In view of the probability of the now frequent air-raids on the South and East Coasts reaching London, the dispersal of London mothers and children re-started in June; and with the commencement of the Battle of Britain early in August the migration of refugees and persons displaced from defence zones increased. Weston received its full share of the dispersed populations. The following are the chief organised parties known by the Health Department to have been received in the Borough from June 13th to the end of 1940 :—

June 13th and 14th—1,572 school children with 84 teachers and helpers from London districts; August 2nd 20 evacuees from Portland and the Channel Islands ; August 16th—25 secondary school children transferred from Dulverton ; September 11th to 14th—1,089 adults and 660 children displaced from South Coast towns (Hastings, St. Leonards, Eastbourne and Bexhill) ; September 27th—12 mothers, and 28th—483 mothers and children from London; October 3rd—616 children with 53 teachers and helpers from Mitcham ; October 7th—about 400 mothers and children from London; and November 1st—11 expectant mothers from London. In addition to the foregoing many unorganised parties and very many individual families of evacuees or refugees were sent or came here, while a number of civil nurses for War Emergency Hospitals and Institutions, and hundreds of workers and labourers were billeted.

On December 9th the Chief Billeting Officer reported to the Council's newly formed Evacuation Committee that the evacuees billeted in the Borough numbered 7,224, of which 2,435 were unaccompanied school children with 104 teachers and 69 helpers, 1155 mothers with 2,274 young children, 1,123 adults in organised or unorganised parties and 64 nurses—excluding war workers and labourers, the numbers of whom were not recorded. This was probably the greatest number of official evacuees billeted in the Town at any one time.

As in 1939 the Christmas season resulted in many mothers and children leaving the Borough, and by February 1st, 1941, the number of billeted evacuees was reduced to 6,832. The fall has continued steadily ever since, so that the number of evacuees was 4,785 at the end of August 3,860 at the end of 1941, and so on. The 1941 figures do not include Weston residents bombed out during the air-raid on January 4th and billeted temporarily in the town.

RECEPTION AND BILLETING.

All arrangements for reception and billeting were made and carried out by the Town Clerk, as Chief Billeting Officer, and his assistants.

Unaccompanied children were billeted in the areas served by the schools they would be attending, so that they would be near their schools and easily visited by teachers and helpers on welfare duties.

Mothers and their children were billeted at first mainly on private householders, but later more and more were accommodated in large houses or premises including former boarding-houses, hotels and a boarding school. Some houses were used for families, Glass's Restaurant for emergencies, later "Pinehurst" for aged persons, etc. During the Summer of 1940, as more families and men were received, the number of family houses was much increased, so that by the end of the year there were 41 such premises accommodating about 660 evacuees.

HEALTH ASPECTS.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPERVISION.

ON RECEPTION. The M.O.H. medically inspected two small parties received in August and re-inspected the exceptional children among the 1,572 received from London in June and the 616 from Mitcham in October. Both these groups of school children had been recently medically examined in their home schools and those having defects or diseases needing special disposal appropriately labelled. From the train arrival platform the several school groups were distributed among the reception schools. Here the Borough and County Health Visitors picked out the special children who were then examined by the M.O.H. who decided as to their disposal. Those needing institutional billeting were sent, as far as accommodation permitted, to Clare House Sick Bay, the Church Army Home, St. Anne's Hostel, and, after it was opened at the end of July, to the Oxford Street Hostel.

At a meeting of the General Evacuation Committee on May 17th the Evacuation Officer stated that sufficient beds would be cleared at the Sick Bay and Hostels to accommodate all the exceptional children likely to be received from London in June. The needs of the evacuees already in the town, however, proved to be so great that only 21 exceptional London children could be placed in the Hostels, but the M.O.H. was able to admit 18 children (16 with recently treated or possibly active scabies, and two infectious disease contacts) to the Isolation Hospital for quarantine and any necessary treatment.

For the various family and mixed parties evacuated to the West in the summer and autumn of 1940, the Government arranged that any persons or groups of persons, or families, likely to need health, cleansing or medical attention on arrival in the reception areas, should be received

for a day or more into War Emergency Hospitals for treatment before billeting. In Weston the advantages of this scheme were discounted, as the first portion of each arriving trainload was sent without selection to the Kewstoke Emergency Hospital, and the remainder of the party billeted without inspection.

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN. The health supervision of the school children in their billets was undertaken by the teachers and helpers who accompanied them from their home towns, assisted by members of the Ward Welfare Committees. At the schools routine medical and cleanliness inspections were made by the County School Medical Inspector and Health Visitors.

PARENTS, ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. The home supervision of these varied groups was more difficult to co-ordinate. From time to time the Evacuation Department employed nurses as Welfare or Family House Visitors. When the number of mothers and young children fell at the beginning of 1940, two temporary part-time Health Visitors transferred from the Health to the Evacuation Department, Mrs. Wood going direct to Evacuation Department in January, and Miss Rossiter leaving the Health Department in February and joining the Evacuation Department in December, 1940.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

A. CHILDREN UNACCOMPANIED BY THEIR PARENTS.

After householders became familiar with the British Medical Association Scheme (described in last year's Report) for the free medical treatment of billeted children by private doctors, it worked very satisfactorily, as also did the further scheme by which billet holders could, on the recommendation of the M.O.H., secure an extra allowance of 5/- a week for each sick child nursed at home.

The County Education Committee provided free treatment for minor ailments at the School Clinic and also dental treatment by the County Dentists.

B. PARENTS AND ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.

For a long while it was difficult to make mothers understand that medical treatment was not provided free by the Evacuation Committee, and they sorely missed the ready access they had had in London to Clinics, Dispensaries and Voluntary Hospital Out-patient Departments. In course of time parents learned to apply for medical aid to private doctors, who treated evacuees for very small fees, or

to the Public Assistance Medical Officers. Some mothers wisely insured against sickness risks by joining Medical Aid or Provident Societies. From October 18th, 1940, the Ministry of Health authorised Public Assistance Authorities to pay their District Medical Officers fees for the medical treatment of official evacuees (other than unaccompanied school children) who could not afford to pay the fees of private doctors. It was some months, however, before this provision was at all well used.

MINOR AILMENTS. As described in the 1939 Report, the Medical Officer's small waiting room, which had been used since 1936 as a Minor Ailments and Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic, proved most useful for the examination and treatment of young evacuee children and their mothers. The attendance became so large that, when in the summer of 1940 the Health Visitors took over a much needed larger room from another Department, the opportunity was taken to fit an annexe to this room as a Minor Ailments Clinic with lavatory basin and sink, sterilizer, bench and cupboards. Although, even with this additional Clinic, the accommodation was still rather limited, by using the general office waiting room and a corridor as additional waiting space, a very large amount of work was got through, the daily attendance averaging over 30, and when the diphtheria immunisation campaign among evacuees was started, the attendances further increased. It was most convenient to have this Clinic centrally situated at the Town Hall, as the children could be examined and treated or immunised by the M.O.H. with the help of the Health Visitors, who knew the mothers and children in their Districts. The M.O.H. continued to do all the Clinic work until Dr. Kathleen Ball started her duties as Clinical Assistant Medical Officer on March 25th, 1941.

CLARE HOUSE SICK BAY. In the earliest days of evacuation it appeared that, in addition to family houses, hostels and the Maternity Home, much Sick Bay and other special accommodation would be needed. The rapid fall in the number of evacuees owing to the return of so many to their London homes, soon showed that it would be difficult to estimate what accommodation would be needed in 1940, particularly as it was impossible to forecast what further evacuation would be undertaken by the Government. By November, 1939, it was obvious that all the beds in the extemporised Maternity Home at Allandale would not be needed for evacuee mothers, and this also suggested caution in providing further special accommodation. Early in 1940, however, when the number of evacuee children had become somewhat stabilised, it was obvious that at least one Sick Bay for Children, in addition to the

Hostels at St. Anne's and the Church Army Home, was essential. Suitable premises were not at that time easily obtainable, for practically all vacant large houses and premises, also two very suitably furnished and fitted Children's Homes, had been requisitioned by the Army, R.A.F. or the Emergency Hospital Service. Eventually Clare House in Beaconsfield Road, until recently used as a small private hotel, was rented. Though not quite large enough or otherwise entirely suitable, it was opened as a Sick Bay on March 20th with Mrs. M. C. McClelland as Matron. Its proper and full use as a Sick Bay was long delayed, as the Billeting Officers used it too freely for billeting emergencies and "difficult" rather than sick children. It was, however, of great value and the children were well treated and cared for by the Matron and her staff. From March to the end of 1940 the admissions were 88, and the sick children included: Chickenpox 4, Whooping Cough 1, Scabies 8, Impetigo 10, Ringworm 2, Pediculi 4, Eczema 3, Enuresis 4, Ear and Eye Diseases 4, Asthma 2, Broken Arm 1, and 3 Shell Shock cases.

FURTHER MEDICAL PROVISION. After the beginning of the second phase of the Evacuation in June the provision of medical services for evacuees became increasingly difficult, so that early in July the M.O.H. asked the Ministry of Health Regional Office for medical guidance and assistance. A lady Evacuation Inspector visited the Hostels and Clare House on July 15th. As the reception of evacuees of various classes proceeded and more family houses and special billets were taken over by the Evacuation Department and when in August measles and whooping cough began to spread among the child population of the town and later diarrhoea and minor infectious diseases occurred in a large family billet (as described below), the need for additional beds in Sick Bays and for infectious diseases increased. On October 10th an Evacuee Health Visitor reported to the M.O.H. that there were some cases of diarrhoea among the families billeted in a hotel. Prompt investigation proved that the diarrhoea was not of a serious nature, and all was clear in a fortnight. The M.O.H. found, however, that the hotel was quite unadaptable for billeting large numbers of evacuee families. Further as in November measles and chicken-pox and later whooping cough, occurred among the children, and few of them could be removed, to the Isolation Hospital or Sick Bay, the Billeting Officer early in December decided to clear the hotel and re-billet the evacuees.

On October 25th a few cases of diarrhoea among adults and children were reported from a family hostel which had recently been opened by the Chief Billeting Officer in the premises formerly occupied by the Eastern House School. Here again investigation showed that the diarrhoea

was mild and few further cases occurred, with the exception of one young child who developed a non-specific gastro-enteritis and died at the Isolation Hospital a month later.

The conditions at the Hostel were not satisfactory and it proved difficult to obtain or retain suitable staff, while many of the mothers were feckless, slack in regard to the state of their rooms and careless as to the health and cleanliness of their children—it was quite difficult to induce the mothers of children suffering from sores, impetigo or minor ailments to bring them to the Town Hall Clinic for treatment. As many families in the Hostel needed domiciliary medical treatment and most of them were unable to pay for it, Colonel A. W. Hooper, at the request of the District P.A. Medical Officer, most generously gave invaluable help from November 11th by paying daily visits to the Hostel and giving medical advice and treatment free of charge.

After a continued trial this family hostel, from which the Billeting Officer had expected so much, proved not to be a success, and it was closed early in 1941.

A Lady Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health visited Weston on October 31st and agreed with the M.O.H. as to the need for further medical provision.

“Meldon”, Landemann Circus, was taken in November, 1940, and later was adapted as a Hostel for “difficult” children ; the R.A.O.B. Home at “Woodford,” Clarence Road North, was taken over early in 1941 as a Children’s Convalescent Home ; and later in the same year “Dunmavin,” Beach Road, was made a Hostel for “enuretics.” As subsequently described, “Tralee,” Birnbeck Road, was converted from a Family House to a Sick Bay and opened on March 31st, 1941 ; and in July the Clare House Sick Bay was transferred to larger premises at “Gleneig,” Ellenborough Park South, and the adjoining house ‘Pinehurst,’ was adapted as an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital.

EVACUATION COMMITTEE. With the exception of the work of the Health Visitors, Isolation Hospital and Maternity Home the whole local evacuation scheme, including billeting, hostel provision and welfare, had been controlled by the Chief Billeting Officer with the help of a General and Ward Committees consisting of representatives of the social services in the Town. Without an Executive Committee of the Council to co-ordinate and control the various elements of the scheme it was not easy for the Health Department to give full assistance in respect of medical supervision and provision. In view of the developments needed by the great increase of evacuees in the autumn, the Council decided to appoint its own Evacuation Committee.

This first met on November 25th and elected the Mayor,

Councillor E. M. Trevor, as Chairman. At its second meeting on December 9th the Committee adopted the M.O.H's. proposals for a Scabies Cleansing Station with an additional Nurse at the Isolation Hospital and for a new Sick Bay with Isolation Wards at "Tralee," Birnbeck Road ; and it also directed that Clare House be cleared of hostel cases and be used exclusively as a Sick Bay.

EVACUATION MEDICAL OFFICER. As the pressure of evacuation medical work increased in the autumn of 1940, the M.O.H. asked for assistance, and the suggestion of some help from the County School Medical Inspector and District Health Visitor proving impracticable, as they were already overburdened with evacuee work, the Ministry of Health (adopting the principle of obtaining help from the Evacuating Districts) asked the London County Council for a medical officer. Dr. T. Stanley Rodgers, an Assistant Medical Officer in the L.C.C. School Medical Service, was seconded for duty at Weston-super-Mare for three months. Dr. Rodgers started his duties here on December 14th and did very valuable work for the Evacuation Service. Among other developments he fitted a Shampoo (Head cleansing) Centre at Glass's Restaurant, where mothers and children of all ages could be cleansed, and he was able to secure from the London County Council experienced Sisters and School Nurses for the Shampoo Centre, Scabies Cleansing Station, and to assist the County School Medical Service, also two Senior Sisters who took over the fitting and furnishing of the Tralee Sick Bay.

Dr. Rodgers took charge of the evacuees admitted to the Isolation Hospital and suggested the refitting of the old Diphtheria Block for temporary use. He also gave much help to the Billeting Officers in the re-organisation of the Evacuee Welfare Section and induced the Evacuation Committee to appoint a Chief Welfare Officer and a Family House Manager.

Dr. Rodgers had to return to London at the end of March, but the M.O.H. was fortunate in being able to secure the services of Dr. Kathleen Ball for clinical duties from March 25th to July 31st, 1941, and then of Dr. Davies-Sage.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

HEALTH VISITORS AND WELFARE CENTRES. With the fall in the number of mothers and young children after Christmas, 1939, two of the temporary part-time Health Visitors left, Mrs. Wood in January and Miss A. E. Rossiter in February, 1940. When the work increased again in the autumn Mrs. Stitson changed from part-time to whole-time

duty from October 1st and Miss B. M. Webber was appointed a whole-time Visitor from December 2nd. Further, Miss A. H. Mitchell was seconded from Camberwell for Evacuee Visiting, principally in family houses, and commenced duties here on January 15th, 1941. A summary of the Health Visitors work is given in the table on p. 26.

The Evacuee Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic were held less or more frequently as necessary to serve the needs of the varying numbers of mothers and young children in the Borough. For summary of the work of the Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic see table on p. 31.

ALLANDALE MATERNITY HOME. Particulars of the admissions of evacuee mothers and the taking over of the Home by the Borough Council are given on p.p. 33—35.

NURSERY CENTRES. A joint Circular on Nursery Centres for Children in Reception Areas was issued by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education on January 9th, 1940. The object was to provide means of care for young evacuated children, while the billet-holders or their mothers were fully occupied in the homes or in industry. The Nursery Centres could be held in temporary premises and with largely extemporised fittings and appliances on a much simpler and less expensive scale than was required by the Board of Education for Day Nurseries or Nursery Schools.

The Chief Billeting Officer called a Conference of representatives of the Borough Council, the County Education Committee and local Social Organisations. A small Sub-Committee, including the M.O.H. and H.M. Chief District Inspector of Schools, was appointed to visit and select suitable premises. Apparently subsequent arrangements were left in the hands of the Billeting Officer and H.M. Inspector. In March the M.O.H. was informed that Miss G. W. Thomas had been appointed Organiser of Nursery Centres, but he was not summoned to any further meetings. The first Centre was opened at Prospect Hall on May 13th. It commenced with 3 children, but developed into so useful a Centre that in January, 1941, a second Centre was opened in adjoining premises. Other Centres were opened at the Church of the Good Shepherd Schoolroom, Devonshire Road, in May, at Eastern House in the autumn, and at Milton Hill in January, 1941.

Routine visits with cleanliness inspections were made to the Centres by the Health Visitors. The M.O.H. also paid frequent visits, but only made a systematic medical inspection of the children at one Centre—Eastern House on November 21st—before the end of 1940, but he arranged for Dr. Ball to commence routine medical inspections in April, 1941.

The Joint Circular on War-time Nurseries issued in May, 1941, placed the above Nursery Centres in the group of Part-time Nurseries for Children aged 2—5 years.

Full-time Day Nurseries had been considered earlier in 1941, but Dr. Stanley Rodgers, who was in charge of Evacuation work at the time, was not favourable. Later the M.O.H. raised their provision with the Manager of the Local Labour Exchange, and meetings were held at which the Medical Officer tried to get some agreement to provide Day Nurseries, but it was decided to experiment with providing meals at a Nursery Centre, and nothing further was possible before the Medical Officer retired at the end of August.

EPIDEMIOLOGY.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. It was the county-wide experience in 1939 that the war and evacuation did not produce any increase of infectious diseases ; and this experience was repeated in 1940, except as regards cerebro-spinal fever, measles and whooping cough, epidemics of the two latter diseases being widely spread throughout the country.

Weston followed the experience of the whole country in 1939, the total notifications of all the infectious diseases being slightly less than in 1938, in spite of the much increased population after the outbreak of war. In 1940, on the other hand, in addition to a few cases of cerebro-spinal fever and mild epidemics of measles and whooping cough, there was a doubled incidence of scarlet fever, and the notifications of diphtheria rose from 6 and 9 in 1938 and 1939 respectively to 51 in 1940.

An analysis of these increases gives no definite proof that they were due to war conditions and evacuation. The high incidence of measles and whooping cough can be regarded as part of normally periodic epidemics throughout the country ; while the majority of the cases of scarlet fever occurred while Government evacuees were at their minimum and before the renewed reception of evacuees in June. It must be realised, however, that the great increase in population due to the influx of thousands of official evacuees (especially children), unofficial evacuees, labourers and factory workers in addition to large numbers of Army and R.A.F. personnel with incidental over-crowding in billets, hostels, schools, places of entertainment, etc., presented most favourable conditions for the droplet conveyance of such infections as cerebro-spinal fever, measles, whooping cough, scarlet fever and diphtheria, and probably accounted for the increase of these diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOME NURSE. As a temporary measure pending the provision of additional beds in the renovated Diphtheria Block at the Isolation Hospital and at the "Tralee" Sick Bay, Mrs. Davies-Sage was appointed for home nursing of evacuee and other children suffering from measles and minor infectious diseases. She carried out these duties from February 19th to the end of July, 1941.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES. In both 1939 and 1940 the position as regards contagious diseases was very unsatisfactory. Among the evacuees were a proportion of dirty, ill-behaved and asocial persons, including mothers who were too lazy to keep themselves clean or free from vermin, and too careless and ignorant to teach their children even the rudiments of cleanliness and the use of the simplest household sanitary conveniences. Such people created trouble in billets, family houses or any kind of living accommodation, and were a problem to the social and welfare workers, the Borough Health Visitors and the County School Nurses. Further they formed a reservoir of scabies, impetigo, vermin, etc. from which clean evacuees and Weston children were infected or infested. Some imported labourers and factory workers were also sources of much similar trouble.

SCABIES. As detailed in the 1939 Report, scabies was rare here prior to the war, not more than an average of three cases per year being known, and these were commonly imported domestic workers from South Wales or London.

Immediately after the first evacuation, children began to be sent by doctors, or from the School Clinic, to the M.O.H. for treatment for scabies. By the end of 1939 42 cases, of which 37 were evacuees, had been treated at the Isolation Hospital—5 as in-patients.

At the beginning of 1940 there was a lull, but soon after the reception of evacuees re-commenced in June and labour began to be imported freely, scabies started to increase progressively to the end of the year. During 1940 cases to the number of 145, including 130 evacuees, were treated, 26 evacuees and 2 soldiers being admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and 8 evacuees to Clare House Sick Bay.

The heavy and increasing incidence at the end of 1940 continued into 1941, much infestation being imported by troops, and male and female workers—*e.g.*, an inspection

of 241 girls at an army clothing factory revealed 16 cases of scabies. From January, 1941, to August 31st about 800 cases were treated.

Contrary to what has been stated elsewhere, it has been the practice in Weston for many years to visit the home or lodgings of each patient, inspect all the inmates, treat all suspects, and steam disinfect all clothing and bedding. Up to July 1940 sulphur ointment had been used, but a change was then made to benzyl benzoate in soap and spirit, the Medical Officer himself treating the first five cases by this method on July 21st. By the autumn the cases were becoming too many to be dealt with in a ward bathroom, and a special bathing station became necessary. After considering various premises the M.O.H. finally recommended that the kitchen and scullery of the old Administrative Block at the Isolation Hospital be converted into dressing and bathing rooms, and that two other rooms be used for in-patients, if necessary. This scheme was approved by the Council Evacuation Committee on December 9th, the work of conversion commenced on December 17th and the station was in use in the second week in January, 1941. Dr. Stanley Rodgers, who took over evacuation duties on December 14th, was made responsible for the scabies treatment scheme, and he secured the services of a London School Nursing Sister to supervise the visiting and bathing.

IMPETIGO was again very common among children of all ages, and many unaccompanied children were treated at the County School Clinic. Large numbers of young children and family groups, including many mothers, were treated by the M.O.H. daily at the Minor Ailments Clinic at the Town Hall. Eleven severe cases were given in-patient treatment, 10 at the Clare House Sick Bay and one at the Isolation Hospital.

RINGWORM. Two school children were treated by the M.O.H. for ringworm of the scalp.

PEDICULOSIS of the scalp continued to give trouble to the County School Medical Service, though apparently the unaccompanied children received during 1940 were cleaner than those who came during the first evacuation.

The Health Visitors dealt with many mothers and young children having verminous hair, but they found very few unclean heads during their routine inspections at the Nursery Centres.

Early in 1941 Dr. Rodgers, of the L.C.C., while on temporary evacuation duties here, took up the subject of pediculosis with the County Education Medical Officers. He

had inspections made by two London School Nursing Sisters who found 7 per cent. of verminous heads in one senior school and 22 per cent. in a three-department school, higher percentages of infestation, he stated, than in London Schools. He fitted a Shampoo (head cleansing) Station at Glass's Restaurant, and arranged for the London Sisters to inspect families, in which there were dirty school children, and treat the families as a whole. This Centre was also of much service in dealing with mothers and young children having unclean hair.

Later the M.O.H. obtained the approval of the Ministry to the establishment of this Station and the charging of the cost to the Evacuation account.

AUXILIARY ISOLATION HOSPITAL. The heavy incidence of infectious diseases, particularly of measles, during the latter months of 1940 and the early months of 1941 confirmed the M.O.H.'s opinion that more isolation beds would be needed than could be provided at the Isolation Hospital, and it was improbable that the Clare House and Tralee Sick Bays could be depended on to meet epidemic needs, particularly in case of further reception of evacuees. It was accordingly decided to take over two adjoining houses, Glenelg and Pinehurst, in Ellenborough Park S., transfer Clare House Sick Bay to Glenelg and furnish Pinehurst (after providing other accommodation for the aged persons billeted there) as an Auxiliary Isolation Hospital. The Staff and supplies were transferred from Clare House in July and the Glenelg Sick Bay opened in August, 1941. The Pinehurst Auxiliary Hospital was not ready for another two months.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Borough Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Town, and its functions are carried out through its Maternity and Child Welfare Committee which includes co-opted ladies representing the Voluntary Association.

HEALTH VISITING.

The Chief Health Visitor, in addition to directing and supervising the work of the Assistant and Temporary Health Visitors, acts as Infant Protection Visitor, makes the enquiries and home visits in connection with infectious diseases, and gives a portion of her time to the County Council for Tuberculosis Dispensary duties and visiting tuberculosis patients within the Borough. She is, therefore, the key officer in the co-ordination of the home health services, and her work is much more valuable than if she confined herself to supervising the paid and voluntary workers at the Welfare Centres and other routine maternity and child welfare duties.

It has been found in Weston for a number of years that a capable and suitably experienced Health Visitor makes a most satisfactory, and as regards measles and whooping cough the best, Infectious Diseases Enquiry Officer. She is welcomed by the parents and, as a nurse, she gains the confidence of the mothers in regard to suspicious or sickening contacts. As a nurse also, she can supervise health conditions and rehabilitation of patients after their discharge from the Isolation Hospital.

The Assistant and Temporary Health Visitors give their whole time to Maternity and Child Welfare work among residents and evacuees, which includes attendances at the Minor Ailment Clinic, the Voluntary Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, and the County Orthopaedic and Eye Clinics.

The accompanying Summary of Visits includes those made by all the Health Visitors.

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY HEALTH VISITORS, 1940.

| | Weston Cases. | Evacuees | TOTAL. |
|--|------------------|----------|--------|
| MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. | | | |
| First visits paid to infants under 1 year | 546 | 71 | 617 |
| Re-visits paid to infants under 1 year | 2030 | 491 | 2521 |
| Visits to children 1 to 5 years..... | 5296 | 3734 | 9030 |
| Total Visits to infants and young children | —7872 | —4296 | —12168 |
| First visits to expectant mothers | 195 | 55 | 250 |
| Re-visits to expectant mothers..... | 325 | 83 | 408 |
| Total visits to expectant mothers | —520 | —138 | —658 |
| Visits re milk grants | 251 | 162 | 413 |
| Visits to boarded-out children | 389 | — | 389 |
| Visits re measles and whooping cough in children under 5 years of age | 143 | 212 | 355 |
| Attendances at Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic | 297 | 101 | 398 |
| | —1080 | —475 | —1555 |
| OTHER VISITS : | | | |
| Tuberculosis | 287 | 11 | 298 |
| Other Notifiable Infectious Diseases | 635 | 121 | 756 |
| Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases | 68 | 42 | 110 |
| Attendances at County Clinics | 69 | — | 69 |
| Miscellaneous | 353 | 175 | 528 |
| | —1412 | —349 | —1761 |
| | 10884 | 5258 | 16142 |

EXTRA NOURISHMENT.

MILK. The Government Milk Scheme for supplying milk to expectant and nursing mothers and children at the reduced price of 2d. per pint, or free when necessary, came into force on July 14th, 1940, but a week or two necessarily elapsed before all applications could be lodged with, or dealt with, by the local Milk Officer. In order to avoid possible hardships the Council's Scheme remained in operation until the end of July, and even after this date a few tins of dried milk were distributed owing to the difficulty of obtaining this through the Government Scheme.

During the first seven months of 1940, that is, until the end of July, 34,056 pints of liquid milk were granted, at a cost of £324 : 5 : 0, to Weston families, and 7,629 pints, at a cost of £73 : 0 : 1, to Evacuees—a total of 41,685 pints at a total cost of £397 : 5 : 1.

DRIED MILK. During the year 81 pounds of dried milk were given to Weston children and 25 pounds to Evacuee children at a cost of £4 : 18 : 6.

OTHER NOURISHMENT. In addition to milk 158 tins of Maltoline or Virol were given to children on the advice of the Medical Officers of the Welfare Centres. The cost to the Council was £4 : 12 : 9.

GOVERNMENT MILK SCHEME. Under the conditions of this Scheme more children and mothers were supplied with free milk than could have been supplied by the Borough Council. As, however, the Ministry of Health did not insist, as the Council had done, on the milk being pasteurised there was a danger of the children being infected with milk borne diseases, including tuberculosis. It was also a disadvantage that careless and indifferent mothers could obtain milk for their children through the Food Office without taking them to a Welfare Centre for examination and advice by the Nurses and Doctor.

As the Scheme was administered from the Food Office, the Health Visitors, clerks, and to a less extent the M.O.H. were saved much time and labour in checking application forms, working out family incomes, issuing milk orders and keeping accounts and records.

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS AND TREATMENT.

LIGHT TREATMENT. Twelve children, including 4 evacuees, needing artificial sunlight therapy were sent to the County Light Clinic in 1940. In the previous year the number of children referred was 11.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT. During the year 28 children (including 7 evacuees) suffering from early orthopaedic defects were referred to the Orthopaedic Clinic for examination and treatment. In the previous year 18 cases were referred.

In-patient treatment at the Bath Children's Orthopaedic Hospital was needed by 10 children. Their total stay in Hospital was 36 weeks and the cost £95 : 14 : 0.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee expended £7 : 12 : 8 on surgical appliances and massage for 3 children.

DEFECTIVE SIGHT AND SQUINT. Last year six local and one evacuee children were referred to the County Oculist for examination and treatment.

WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

The Weston-super-Mare Maternity and Child Welfare Association conducts the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics. A short history of this Association and the invaluable services it has rendered to the Town since its foundation by a Committee of Ladies in February, 1918, was given in the 1937 Health Report. It has been financed by voluntary funds with supplementary annual grants of half the approved expenditure from the Ministry of Health, but, in accordance with the Local Government Act of 1929, larger grants have been made by the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority since April 1st, 1930. The last grant made by the Ministry of Health was £89, and the first made by the Weston Council was £135. Since 1930 the Council's contribution has been increased from time-to-time to allow for the extra cost entailed by the great expansion of the Association's activities, and also to cover a progressively greater proportion of the expenditure, with the result that for the last few years the Council's grants have rightly met the whole expenditure of the Association. The contribution was £337 : 10 : 0 in 1940-41, and £350 in 1941-42.

The following figures give some idea of how, with the co-operation of the M.O.H., the work of the Association developed from 1929 to 1940.

| INFANT WELFARE CENTRES. | | | | 1929 | 1940 |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|----------|
| Number of Sessions | ..... | ..... | ..... | 73 | 148 |
| Do. for Evacuees | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 57 |
| | | | | | ———— 205 |
| Number of New Children | ..... | ..... | ..... | 161 | 404 |
| Number of Evacuees | ..... | ..... | ..... | — | 325 |
| | | | | | ———— 729 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Total number of Children attending | 422 | 1005 | |
| Do. Evacuees | — | 484 | 1489 |
| | | —— | |
| Total Attendances | 2594 | 5720 | |
| Do. Evacuees | — | 1385 | 7105 |
| | | —— | |
| ANTE-NATAL CLINICS. | | | |
| No. of Sessions | 12 | 50 | |
| Do. for Evacuees | — | 15 | 65 |
| | | —— | |
| Number of Expectant Mothers | 33 | 240 | |
| Do. Evacuees | — | 94 | 314 |
| | | —— | |
| Number of Attendances | 54 | 755 | |
| Do. Evacuees | — | 241 | 996 |
| | | —— | —— |

Had the Council conducted the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinic from the first the results could not have been better in the saving of infant lives and improving the health of the mothers and children, but the cost to the rate-payers would have been greater by some thousands of pounds. Sooner or later, however, the Borough Council will have to assume their full responsibilities, and take over the control and administration of the Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics, provide special buildings and employ expensive staff.

During the year 1940-41 Lady Davies was President, Mrs. Page, Honorary Secretary, and Miss S. E. Evans, Honorary Treasurer of the Association ; Mrs. Edmunds remained Registrar of the Weston Centre and Mrs. Macfarlane Superintendent of the New Moorland Road Welfare Centre.

WESTON CHILD WELFARE CENTRE. Congregational Church Hall, Waterloo Street, Tuesday afternoons at 2.30 and Friday mornings at 11 o'clock. Medical Officer Dr. R. M. Alford.

Special sessions for evacuees, with Dr. Douglas Powell as Medical Officer, were held on Thursday mornings until March 28th. With the increase in the number of evacuees these Thursday sessions were resumed from October 3rd and additional sessions on Monday mornings became necessary from November 8th.

The Thrift Club was again conducted by Mrs. Tomes, and £250 was paid out at Christmas.

On December 10th the Association and the M.O.H. learned that the B.B.C. were taking over the Congregational Schoolrooms for a relief Broadcasting Station ; and the Association accordingly had to obtain other accommodation for their Welfare Centre. The M.O.H. strongly urged, contrary to other suggestions, that application be made for the use of the near-by Church Institute. Most fortunately Prebendary A. Chisholme and the Trustees of the Institute willingly and generously agreed to let the Association have the use of the Institute and make some necessary alterations to the ground floor rooms. The cost of the adaptations, fittings and furnishing was met by a grant from the B.B.C.

The Church Institute has proved to be a workable and quite satisfactory substitute for the Congregational Church Hall and though naturally it does not make a perfect Welfare Centre, it was the best centrally situated and adaptable building which was available, or will be available until a Central Health Clinic can be built after the war.

MOORLAND ROAD CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

Moorland Road Congregational Church Hall, Thursday afternoons at 2.30. Medical Officer, Dr. Richard M. Alford.

The Evacuee Sessions were discontinued in the Spring in favour of additional sessions at the Weston Centre.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

Congregational Church Hall, Waterloo Street, Tuesday mornings at 11 o'clock. Medical Officers, Dr. Mary Somers and Dr. Hugh Powell.

The Special Clinics for evacuee mothers, held by Dr. Richard M. Alford on Wednesday mornings, were stopped on February 14th, as the numbers attending were much reduced, but after the further receptions of mothers in the summer the Special Clinic was resumed on October 6th.

The accompanying table summarises the work done at the Centres and Clinics both for resident and evacuee children and mothers during 1940.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC, 1940.

| | Weston Centre. | | Moorland Road | | Ante-Natal Clinics | | TOTALS |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------|
| | Weston Cases. | Evacuee Cases. | Weston Cases. | Evacuee Cases. | Weston Cases | Evacuee Cases. | |
| 1. Total number of sessions | 91 | 48 | 50 | 19 | 50 | 15 | 280 |
| Number of sessions with Medical Officer | 98 | 24 | 50 | 19 | 50 | 15 | 256 |
| 2. Newly-joining children (a) under 1 year of age | 186 | 147 | 82 | 19 | — | — | 434 |
| (b) 1—4 years of age | 70 | 124 | 66 | 35 | — | — | 295 |
| Total newly-joining children | 256 | 271 | 148 | 54 | — | — | 729 |
| Individual children who attended during year | 722 | 390 | 283 | 94 | — | — | 1489 |
| 3. Attendances of children (a) under 1 year of age | 2294 | 557 | 579 | 117 | — | — | 3547 |
| (b) 1—4 years of age | 2032 | 515 | 815 | 196 | — | — | 3558 |
| Total attendances of children | 4326 | 1072 | 1394 | 313 | — | — | 7105 |
| Average attendances of children | 44.1 | 22.3 | 27.8 | 16.4 | — | — | 33.0 |
| 4. Doctor's consultations | 2404 | 661 | 375 | 178 | — | — | 4118 |
| Average per session | 24.5 | 13.7 | 17.5 | 9.3 | — | — | 19.1 |
| 5. Newly-joining mothers | 165 | 210 | 105 | 42 | — | — | 522 |
| Individual mothers who attended during the year | 604 | 280 | 212 | 59 | — | — | 1155 |
| 6. Total attendances of mothers | 3866 | 840 | 1134 | 216 | — | — | 6056 |
| Average attendances of mothers | 39.4 | 17.5 | 22.6 | 11.3 | — | — | 28.1 |
| 7. Newly-joining expectant mothers | — | — | — | — | 213 | 85 | 298 |
| Individual expectant mothers who attended | — | — | — | — | 240 | 94 | 334 |
| 8. Total attendances of expectant mothers | — | — | — | — | 755 | 241 | 996 |
| Average attendance of expectant mothers | — | — | — | — | 15.1 | 16.0 | 15.3 |
| 9. Number of post-natal cases | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 3 |

DENTAL TREATMENT. Of the 90 patients referred to the Association's dentist, Mr. Charles H. Taylor, for treatment, 45 mothers and 24 children were residents, and 10 mothers and 11 children were evacuees. The extractions numbered 128 temporary, and 143 permanent, teeth, and 71 general anaesthetics were given. Twelve artificial dentures were supplied to mothers.

CENTRAL HEALTH CLINIC.

In last year's Report particulars were given of the suggestions made in 1934 by the M.O.H. for a Child Welfare Institute and Maternity Home, and the steps which had been taken early in 1939 to secure the co-operation of the County Council in the provision of a Central Health Clinic to serve as a centre for all the out-patient personal health services at present provided, or which may in the future be provided, by the County and Borough Councils. The Scheme had to be deferred until after the war, but it should not be forgotten when the reconstruction of the Social and Medical Services comes up for consideration or action.

DAY NURSERY.

Mrs. Frampton, the Honorary Secretary, reports that the "Beatrice Jones Sands Day Nursery" was open from Saturday, June 8th until Saturday, August 31st and during that period 177 children were "cared-for," and 45 accidents and 36 lost children were suitably dealt with.

Infant Life Protection.

BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN.

At the end of 1939 there were on the "Register of Infants received for Reward" the names of 44 children (21 boys and 23 girls). During 1940 the names of 66 children (33 boys and 33 girls) were added to the Register and the names of 85 children (41 boys and 44 girls) were removed—9 having been adopted, 63 returned to their parents, and 13 transferred to foster-parents and Schools outside the Borough—leaving the names of 25 children (13 boys and 12 girls) on the Register at the end of the year.

At the end of 1939 there were 10 names on the Register of "Persons receiving Infants for Reward."

During the year under review 7 names were removed and 6 fresh ones added, leaving 9 names on the Register at the end of 1940. Evacuation and war-time conditions reduced the accommodation available and difficulty in boarding out children was often experienced.

All the children and foster-parents were systematically visited, the conditions found being generally satisfactory. There was no necessity to take any legal proceedings.

Midwifery and Maternity Services.

MATERNITY BEDS.

The Council subsidises five maternity beds at the General Hospital, but a few urgent cases are admitted for the County Council from surrounding districts. Of the 43 cases admitted in 1940, 33 (including 4 evacuees) were booked for the Borough Council. The average stay in Hospital of these 33 cases was 15 days.

MATERNITY HOME.

Although there was no Maternity Home in the Town before the war, efforts to obtain one, or alternatively a Maternity Ward at the General Hospital, had been made for many years by the Maternity and Child Welfare Association (see 1931 Report, p. 24). Further the M.O.H., after his appointment at the end of 1929, advised that a Maternity Home was very desirable, but would be costly to provide and maintain as no Government grant would be obtainable—unlike Taunton and Yeovil, Weston had lost the chance of a grant by spending nothing on maternity in-patient provision before or during 1928-29 which was the year on which the Government consolidated fixed grants were based.

As an alternative to a Maternity Home or Ward, the Council agreed to subsidise five beds and a labour room in the private wards of the General Hospital from April 1st, 1935. (See Annual Reports, 1933, p.25 and 1934 p. 28).

ALLANDALE MATERNITY HOME. With this background it is not surprising that, when the Maternity Home for evacuees was improvised at the Miners' Convalescent Home in September, 1939, many people suggested that it should be retained after the War as a Borough Maternity Home. Further, when the Regional Medical Officer wrote to the M.O.H., as Medical Superintendent of the Home, on January 27th, 1940, that the Ministry of Health might like to close it, but retain the equipment on a care and maintenance basis against emergencies, the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee at once realised that this was a timely and fortuitous opportunity of trying to take over the premises as an experimental Borough Maternity Home without the expense of building, adapting or fitting it, and though Allandale would not be suitable for a permanent Maternity Home, the experiment would supply the necessary data and experience for providing one after the war. Negotiations were immediately opened with the Ministry, and the Council took over the Home from April 1st on very favourable financial terms.

FEES. Patients were required to pay according to their means for their nursing and maintenance. The M.O.H.'s plan of assessing evacuee mothers, most of whom came from London, on the L.C.C. Hospital Scale was continued by the Council, but a new scale of charges for other patients was prepared. A patient whose family income, after deduction of rent, was less than 10/- per person per week was charged only her Maternity Benefit, if any ; and from this the charges were stepped up through ten income levels to the full charge of five guineas per week. The higher income charges gave a latitude of half-guinea or a guinea for the M.O.H. to adjust the assessments of such patients to their special circumstances.

The scale gave general satisfaction, and only one patient, in June, 1941, made any serious objection to her assessment, and this was to the weak point in the scale, the payment of the full maternity benefit. The M.O.H. advised revision of the scale in respect of this benefit, and at the same time consideration of recasting it on the lines of the L.C.C. Hospital Scale.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE. With the exception of private patients paying full fees and booking their own doctors, each mother was required to pay a medical insurance fee of 5/- or, if the family income was over £160, of 10/-, thus securing, without further charge, all necessary medical care for mother or child from the Obstetric Officers, Drs. Hugh Powell and Richard M. Alford.

LONDON EXPECTANT MOTHERS. In the autumn of 1940, when the air-raids on London had commenced, the Ministry suggested sending batches of expectant mothers (shortly-to-be-confined mothers registered by the L.C.C. on blue cards) at regular intervals from London to Allandale.

The M.O.H. pointed out that Allandale was not provided for expectant mothers evacuated as a class under the Government Evacuation Scheme, but to meet serious local needs which had arisen after the primary evacuation in respect of expectant mothers : (a) evacuated with their families, (b) among unofficial evacuees, and (c) among the wives of Service men. If large numbers of "blue card" expectant mothers were sent to Allandale, they might crowd out these local classes and residents. To avoid such crowding out, if possible, another ward for four beds with necessary offices was taken and arrangements made to billet the London mothers in another section of the Allandale Convalescent Home, thus providing facilities for the beds in the Maternity Home to be cleared quickly.

One batch of 12 London mothers was received on September 27th, and a further one of 11 on November 1st. Except for three cases transferred from Kewstoke in January, 1941, no further "blue card" expectant mothers came from London.

ADMISSIONS. The admissions during 1940 numbered 132, classified as follows :—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|-----|
| Evacuee mothers | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 31 | |
| London expectant mothers | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 23 | |
| | | | | | — | 54 |
| Unofficial evacuees | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  | 3 |
| Wives of Service men :— | | | | | | |
| Navy | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2 | |
| Army | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 | |
| R.A.F. | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 22 | |
| | | | | | — | 34 |
| Residents :— | | | | | | |
| Booked cases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 25 | |
| Emergency cases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | |
| From General Hospital | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4 | |
| | | | | | — | 33 |
| Doctors' private cases | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |  | 8 |
| | | | | | | — |
| | | | | | | 132 |
| | | | | | | — |

MATERNAL MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY.

In 1940 there were no maternal deaths. Six cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified and were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. All made good recoveries.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER.

The Banwell spring provides a constant supply of drinking water which is of exceptionally fine quality, being organically very pure and of only moderate hardness. In order to ensure its bacteriological purity the water is treated by the 'chloramine' process at the Waterworks before being pumped to the service reservoirs. Periodic bacteriological examination of the town supply are made. They show that the treatment is successful and the water to be bacteriologically very pure.

Last year 46 samples were examined with the following results :—Number of organisms growing at 37°C. per milli-litre of water : Sterile or less than 1, 12 samples ; 1, 10 samples ; 2, 6 samples ; 3, 5 samples ; 4, 2 samples ; 5, 3 samples ; 6, 1 sample ; 7, 2 samples ; 8, 1 sample ; 9, 1 sample ; 11, 2 samples ; 15 and over, 3 samples. None of the samples showed coli or coli-aerogenes bacteria.

Periodical chemical examinations also are made by the Council's Analysts, Messrs. Hehner & Cox, of London. The results of the samples examined during 1940 showed no material differences from the analyses given in previous Annual Reports.

The provision of a water supply, with a concomitant sewerage system, to the Bleadon Hill district had been under consideration for several years. On November 18th 1940, the Ministry of Health sanctioned the expenditure of £5,824 for works of water supply, but required the proposed sewerage to be deferred until after the war. The laying of the water mains commenced in February, 1941, the erection of the Pumping Station in April, 1941, and the service became available in December, 1941.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF ALIMENTARY INFECTIONS. The Ministry of Health in Circular 2198, November, 25th, 1940, drew the attention of Sanitary Authorities to the measures which can usefully be taken to protect the public against the spread of diseases commonly conveyed by food *i.e.*, Diseases of the Enteric Group (Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers) Dysentery, Food Poisoning and Intestinal Parasitism. Forthwith a notice conveying the advice and warnings of the Ministry was prepared and delivered to all persons handling, preparing or selling milk and other foods in the Borough.

ABATTOIR.

War efficiency planning by the Government has radically changed the administration and working of the Borough Abattoir. On September 12th, 1939, the Council were informed that the Food Ministry's Defence Plans Department had selected the Weston Abattoir for regional slaughtering which would be operated by a General Manager on behalf of the Ministry. After visits from officials of the Defence Plans Department, particulars of the facilities which would be required, and the method and rates of payment

for them, were received from the Ministry of Food on September 30th. As the M.O.H., who since 1938 had been made responsible to the Health Committee for the management of the Abattoir, was overburdened with evacuation and other exceptional war-time duties, he deputed the negotiations with the Ministry to the Abattoir Superintendent, Mr. Stevenson, and the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bladon. These Officers are to be highly commended on the success of their negotiations with the Food Ministry, the economy and efficiency of their plans for adapting the abattoir for night and maximal slaughtering, and the favourable letting of office and other accommodation to the Meat Marketing Board, Slaughtering Contractor and others.

REGIONAL SLAUGHTERING under the control of the Ministry commenced at the abattoir on January 15th, 1940. The following records of the slaughtering for the past four years show the large increase in the number of animals dealt with during 1940 :

| | | <i>Beasts.</i> | <i>Calves.</i> | <i>Sheep.</i> | <i>Pigs.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|-------------|-------|----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1937 | ..... | 1,313 | 939 | 9,943 | 4,413 | 16,608 |
| 1938 | ..... | 1,183 | 835 | 10,699 | 3,964 | 16,681 |
| 1939 | ..... | 1,365 | 857 | 12,919 | 3,655 | 18,797 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Average | | | | | | |
| 1937—39 | ..... | 1,287 | 877 | 11,187 | 4,011 | 17,362 |
| 1940 | ..... | 7,252 | 3,448 | 47,238 | 6,021 | 63,959 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| Increase in | | | | | | |
| 1940 | ..... | 5,965 | 2,571 | 36,051 | 2,010 | 46,597 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |

The more than fivefold increase in the number of beasts and the nearly fourfold increase in the total number of animals slaughtered in 1940, as compared with the average for the three previous years, were due to the extended area and the larger population served by the abattoir under the Government Regional Slaughtering Scheme. Whereas, before the war, the abattoir catered only for the Borough with its population of about 33,000, since January, 1940 it has served a very much larger area extending from Portishead to Bridgwater, Glastonbury and Wells and including the Rural District of Axbridge with a population of about a quarter of a million.

The financial results were most satisfactory to the Council, for the greatly increased income from slaughtering fees gave a substantial profit on the abattoir for 1940, in-

stead of a loss as in previous years. Had the Ministry of Food awarded the slaughtering contract to the Council, as they were solicited to do by the Council's Officers, the financial results would have been even more favourable.

MEAT INSPECTION. Pending experience as to the amount of slaughtering which would be done under the Government Scheme, the Chief Inspector and the Abattoir Superintendent urged that the inspection of all slaughtered animals (the most important public health part of the scheme) should be carried out by the Council's qualified Meat Inspectors—Mr. Bladon, Mr. Stephenson, and Mr. Charles Urch—though the M.O.H. was of opinion that an additional Meat Inspector was needed. Experience proved that the three Inspectors could only cope with the enormous increase in the meat inspections by working much overtime, including Saturdays and also for some months Sundays, and also dangerously reducing the time they could devote to their District Sanitary duties. Early in 1941 the M.O.H., with the approval of the Chairman of the Health Committee drew attention in a special report to these facts and urged the appointment of an additional Meat and Sanitary Inspector. The Council acted upon this recommendation and appointed a new officer who commenced his duties on August 1st, 1941.

Prevalence and Control Over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFICATIONS.

The yearly numbers of notifications of infectious diseases (excluding measles, whooping cough and tuberculosis), after being high for the three years 1928, 1929 and 1930 with 200, 144 and 149 notifications respectively, were comparatively low until 1940, when the number rose suddenly to 198 which is 89 more than the average for the 10 years 1929—38, and more than for any year since 1928. In 1939, the first year of War Evacuation, the number was only 95 which is 24 less than for the average of the previous 10 years, and 113 less than in 1940. As, however, the populations at risk were swollen in 1939 and 1940 by evacuees, comparisons with other years are best made between the incidences per 1,000 of the populations in the several years, viz., 4.8 per 1,000 in 1940, 2.4 in 1939, 3.5 average for the 10 years 1929—38, and 7.3 in 1929.

In 1940 the notifications of measles were 459, and of whooping cough, 101. A mild epidemic of each disease commenced in the latter part of the year, forming part of wide spread epidemics throughout the country.

As both diseases were made notifiable in October, 1939, only as a war-time measure, comparable local figures are not available, except for measles during the last war.

The figures below show the incidence, as compared with the whole of England and Wales, of some of the more important notifiable infectious diseases in 1940 :—

| | Number of Notifications. | Incidence per 1,000 of Population. | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| | Weston | Weston | Eng. & W. |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 7 | 0.17 | 0.32 |
| Diphtheria | 51 | 1.25 | 1.16 |
| Enteric Fever | 0 | 0 | 0.07 |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 0.14 | 0.33 |
| Scarlet Fever | 92 | 2.25 | 1.63 |
| Measles | 459 | 11.24 | 10.24 |
| Whooping Cough | 101 | 2.47 | 1.34 |

Particulars of the notifications and the number of cases removed to hospital together with an analysis into age and locality groups are given in the accompanying tables.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR, 1940.

| DISEASE. | Total Cases Notified¶ | Cases admitted to Hospitals | Total Deaths |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Small Pox | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 92 | 86 | 0 |
| Diphtheria | 51 | 51 | 3 |
| Enteric Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Para-typhoid Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 7 | 7 | 3 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| Pneumonia | 29 | 3 | 18 |
| Erysipelas | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis. | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Measles | 459 | 5 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 101 | 1 | 0 |
| Food Poisoning | 0 | 0 | 0 |

¶ Military and Services cases excluded.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

| Cases. | | | Vision impaired. | Vision un- impaired | Total Blindness | Deaths |
|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Noti- fied. | Treated. | | | | | |
| | At home. | In hospital. | | | | |
| 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1940.

| NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. | Number of Cases Notified at ages. | | | | | | | | | | | | | Removed to Isolation etc., Hospitals | Military and Service cases |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| | At all Ages | 65 & over | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5-9 | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-34 | 35-44 | 45-64 | 65 & over | | |
| Acute Poliomyelitis | 2 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2* | - |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 7 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 9 | 19 | 6 | - | 1 | 2 | - | 5 and 2† | 3 |
| Diphtheria | 51 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 51 | - |
| Erysipelas | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 29 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 3 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 3† | 2 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 2 | - | - | 6 | - |
| Scarlet Fever..... | 92 | - | - | - | 2 | 7 | 42 | 19 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 2 | - | 86 | 4 |
| Measles | 459 | 6 | 46 | 52 | 46 | 69 | 196 | 22 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 101 | 9 | 11 | 12 | 18 | 15 | 32 | 3 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 41 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 4 | 1 | 4 | 21 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | 4 |
| Tuberculosis(Non-pulmonary) | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | - | 1 |
| | 807 | 21 | 57 | 68 | 70 | 94 | 293 | 68 | 31 | 47 | 20 | 22 | 11 | | 15 |

*Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. †General Hospital

MORTALITY.

The following figures give a comparison between the local and national mortalities from infectious diseases during 1940 :—

| | | Number of | Death Rate | |
|----------------|-------|-------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| | | Daths : | per 1,000 of Population | |
| | | Weston-s-M. | Weston-s-M. | Eng. & W. |
| Diphtheria | ..... | 3 | 0.07 | 0.06 |
| Scarlet Fever | ..... | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | ..... | 1 | 0.02 | 0.02 |
| Whooping Cough | ..... | 0 | 0 | 0.02 |

For the incidence and mortality of Tuberculosis see p. 50.

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year under review 51 notifications of diphtheria were received, giving an incidence of 1.25 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Though this was the highest incidence since 1934 (1.70), it was not excessive as compared with former epidemic years, and was only slightly above the incidence of 1.16 for England and Wales.

For several previous years the local incidence had been much below that for the whole country, and during the four years 1936-9 it had been very low, averaging only 0.25 per 1,000 as compared with 1.4 for England and Wales—as a matter of fact in these four years it was lower than in any previous four year period on local record.

Contrary to expectations war-time conditions and evacuation did not lead to any increase of diphtheria in 1939 while there were only 7 primary notifications of diphtheria (of which two related to visitors) until the middle of July, 1940, when investigations by the Senior Health Visitor and the M.O.H. in connection with a case on the Bournville Estate led to the discovery of 12 carrier or clinical cases (the original and one of the discovered cases died.) From this time onwards notifications came in from many parts of the Borough, and what may be regarded as a small local epidemic of diphtheria did not die out until towards the end of 1941. Infection was brought into the Borough on four occasions—once by a convalescent patient and three times by carriers on leave or returning to their home—and 17 persons were infected.

As had been the routine practice of the M.O.H. here and in other districts for a number of years, all home and near contacts were swabbed nose and throat. This procedure led to the detection of 24 carrier or sub-clinical cases. Routine swabbing was carried out in infected small residen-

tial schools, institutions and children's homes, but not in large institutions or day schools, except under special conditions, when children with discharging noses or who had had sore throats were swabbed. When immunisation of the child population is sufficiently extensive that is, when at least three-quarters of the child population have been immunised, there should be far fewer cases of diphtheria, and less laborious investigation, inspections and swabbing of contacts may be needed.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

HOSPITALS, ETC. Since 1930 nurses joining the staff of the General and Isolation Hospitals and until the end of 1934, all the staff of the Children's Convalescent Home, and in addition other persons applying to the M.O.H. were Schick tested and, if susceptible, immunised by him. Only 12 persons were dealt with under this arrangement during 1940, but the total from 1930 to August 1941 was 231. Of these 93 were Schick negative, and 105 susceptibles were fully, and 22 partly immunised with T.A.F. Of those who received the full immunising course 60 were re-Schicked and 58 found to be definitely negative. The M.O.H. also co-operated with the local medical practitioners in Schick testing and the supply of immunising materials for their patients.

GENERAL IMMUNISATION SCHEMES. From 1929 the M.O.H. kept the Health Committee fully informed in relation to diphtheria infection and immunisation in the Borough ; but, for reasons given in previous reports and summarised in the 1936 report, it was not until January, 1935, he advised that the County School Medical Department should be approached with a view to bringing the Weston school children into a free immunisation scheme for children of all ages. The County Medical Officer asked that no local action should be taken pending the preparation of a County Scheme. For reasons previously given in these reports the County were not ready to put their plans into operation until November, 1938. The Weston Health Department at once co-operated and immunisations commenced in December, 1938.

THE 1938-39 SCHEME, as applied to Weston, provided free immunisation of :—

I. CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE by private medical practitioners, the Borough Council supplying the materials and paying the doctors ; and

II. OLDER CHILDREN by the County School Medical Inspectors in the schools—after Schick testing of children aged 9 years and older.

In Group I. 109 children were immunised up to the end of 1939.

In Group II during 1939 the Borough M.O.H. and the County School Medical Inspector Schick tested 409 children, of whom 75 were negative, and immunised 874 children. These 874 with the 75 Schick negative reactors made 949 non-susceptible children, and represented about 40 per cent. of the school population.

The M.O.H. had hoped for a better response than 109 young children and 40 per cent. of the school children, for immunisation propaganda had been carried out widely by display advertisements with "write-ups" in the local Press ; circulars to parents distributed house-to-house and through the Welfare Centres, Health Visitors, Doctors, Midwives, etc. ; talks to mothers ; and each school child had taken home a special notice asking the parents' consent to the child's immunisation. As the M.O.H. later reported to Ministry of Health, the relatively poor response to the efforts that have been made for some years to immunise the child population of the Borough was partly explained by the strong and active opposition of anti-vivisectionists who are exceptionally numerous and militant here. When a Health Exhibition was held in November, 1936, at which diphtheria prophylactics were exhibited and immunisation explained and advised, the Exhibition Hall was picketed by anti-vivisectionists who pressed leaflets on all who entered the Hall. When the immunisation advertisements appeared in the local papers, the anti-vivisectionists followed with paid advertisements advising parents against immunisation, and opposing literature, leaflets, etc. were sent to many people in the town.

EVACUEES. Soon after the first evacuation the M.O.H. made enquiries as to how many evacuee children had been immunised, but could get no information through the schools. He, however, made early application to the Ministry of Health for consent to offer immunisation to evacuees, and in January, 1940, permission to charge the cost of immunisation to the Evacuee Account was received.

THE 1940—41 SCHEME. During the greater part of 1940 it was impossible, owing to war conditions and to evacuation disorganising medical staffs and practice, to carry on fully the 1938—39 Scheme. The District School Medical Inspector could not make another round of the Weston schools, but the local medical practitioners immunised 82 young children, and the M.O.H. dealt with the Hospital staffs and some other cases.

Early in 1940 the Ministry of Health made a most important advance in diphtheria prophylaxis changing their role from that of passive advisers of Local Authorities to encourage immunisation to that of active participators in the work. In Circular 2230 the Ministry offered the free supply of immunising material (alum-precipitated toxoid) and urged Local Authorities to use the propaganda literature prepared for the Ministry by the Central Council for Health Education.

On receipt of Circular 2230 on December 10th the M.O.H. contacted the County School Medical Officer and, with the approval of the Borough Health Committee, the following new Scheme was agreed:—

1. The parents of all the school children in the Borough again to be offered free immunisation of their children by the School Medical Inspector at the schools. The Borough M.O.H. to immunise, or complete the immunisation of, any children who missed their appointments at the schools.

2. The 1938—39 Scheme, by which the Borough Council pay for the immunisation of children under 5 years of age by their own doctors, be extended by :

- (a) The M.O.H. immunising free of charge all children brought to the Town Hall Clinic *any* morning (except Sunday).

- (b) The M.O.H. doing, or arranging for, the immunisation of evacuee children at hostels, nursery centres, etc.

These additional facilities for immunisation were extensively advertised by display notices, articles and reports in the local newspapers, distribution of handbills, and canvassing by health and evacuation visitors, nurses, welfare officers, teachers, etc. Owing partly to this renewed propaganda and partly to the numerous centres at which immunisation could be secured, the response was much better than in the 1938-39 Campaign. Between December, 1940, and August, 31st, 1941, on which date Dr. Remmett Weaver retired from the post of M.O.H., 360 young children were immunised by the local doctors, and 372 children or older persons were found to be non-susceptible to diphtheria or were immunised at the Town Hall Clinic, 87 at the Hostels and Nursery Centres, 14 at Hospitals, and 2,140 at the Schools, a total of 3,083.

The following is a summary of the immunisations done under the above schemes up to August 31st, 1941. It does not include 200 or more uncompleted immunisations.

| No. of Persons & Age Groups. | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------|
| | Under 5 years. | 5—14 years. | 15 years and over | Schick negativ. | Total |
| Hospital | | | | | |
| Staffs, etc. | | 15 | 90 | 93 | 198 |
| Town Hall Clinic | 210 | 142 | 5 | 15 | 372 |
| At Hostels, etc. | 102 | 61 | 20 | 4 | 187 |
| Schools | | 3014 | | 75 | 3089 |
| By Private | | | | | |
| Doctors | 428 | 123 | | | 551 |
| | 740 | 3355 | 115 | 187 | 4397 |

The increasing co-operation of the Ministry of Health, particularly its educational propaganda through the national newspapers and journals, the B.B.C. etc., should much lessen the former apathy or opposition of parents, and help to secure and then maintain, the level of immunisation at or above three-quarters of the child population. Immunisation centres, however, must be conveniently situated for the mothers of young children to attend, and open frequently at convenient hours.

SCARLET FEVER.

The notifications of scarlet fever in 1940 numbered 92, and there were also one R.A.F. and three military notifications. The civilian incidence was 2.25 per 1,000 as compared with 1.63 for the whole county. The 1940 incidence is much higher than is usual in Weston, and is the highest since 1923, when it was 2.62 per 1,000. Two-thirds of the cases occurred during an epidemic three months, March, April and May, previous to the start of the second evacuation. Only three evacuees were affected.

83 civilian and 3 military scarlet fever patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

The disease was of mild type, and there was no death.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.

Seven civilian and three military notifications were received. Two civilians were admitted to the General Hospital and five civilian and one military cases to the Isolation Hospital. Of the 7 civilians suffering from cerebro-spinal fever 2 died—but 3 deaths are assigned to the Borough one of these being the non-transferred death of a visitor who was taken ill the next day but one after her arrival in Weston and died two days later.

MEASLES.

In accordance with war-time notification of measles 459 cases were notified during 1940, giving an incidence of 11.24 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 10.24, for the whole country. Measles does not occur in regularly spaced epidemics in this Borough, but a mild epidemic commenced during the latter half of 1940. After a clear period of some months at the end of 1939, the first case was notified on January 1st, 1940, and, for the next six months, only from 2 to 9 cases per month occurred. In July, after the second evacuation had commenced, the notifications became more frequent until they reached a maximum of about 300 in January, 1941. They then gradually declined, the epidemic dying out in the last months of the year.

Comparatively few evacuees were affected. There was one military case. The disease was of a mild type, and but one death occurred. Only five cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, but more would have been admitted from billets had beds been available.

WHOOPING COUGH.

During 1940 there were 101 notifications of whooping cough, giving an incidence of 2.47 per 1,000, as compared with 1.34, for England and Wales. All the cases except 11 occurred during November and December, and formed the commencement of a small epidemic which extended into 1941. There were no deaths in 1940, but the cases in the early part of 1941 were more severe.

CHICKEN POX.

As in 1939 cases of chicken pox occurred in batches throughout 1940, but were more frequent in the last quarter particularly among evacuees in hostels and billets. Mainly to try to check the spread of the disease, the first cases in hostels and billets were removed, 11 going to the Isolation Hospital and 4 to Clare House Sick Bay.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

In the 1929 and 1930 Annual Reports the long standing and urgent need for additional and modern Isolation Hospital accommodation was explained. Early in 1931 the Council presented their hospital extension scheme to the Ministry of Health for sanction to a loan, and to the County Council for a contribution in aid. Although the Ministry approved the scheme, the County Council asked for a cheaper

one, but when this was submitted in 1932, the County Council declined to contribute to the whole cost, or to give any help until the financial crisis was over.

The importance of completing the extensions was never lost sight of, and early in 1938 the Medical Officer suggested that, with changed administrative advice, the County Council might contribute to the whole cost. After long negotiations the County Council did agree in June, 1939, to contribute towards both the expenditure already incurred, and the estimated cost of a new laundry, a 10-bed Cubicle Block, and improvements of the old Blocks.

Before the necessary application to the Ministry of Health for a loan could be prepared, the War broke out, and, when the necessarily delayed application was made in December, it was refused on the ground that capital expenditure must be restricted. Subsequently, however, after an Inquiry by the Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry, a loan for the erection and fitting of the Laundry Block was sanctioned, and the County Council agreed to make their contribution. The building was erected in 1940, but the laundry did not come into operation until 1941, as there was difficulty in obtaining the washing plant.

It is unfortunate that the provision of the permanent cubicles was refused, as more beds were very urgently needed in the autumn of 1940 and early months of 1941. Eventually the Cubicle Block will have to be erected, and in the meantime much, and possibly avoidable, expense has been incurred in providing temporary beds in the old Diphtheria Block and at an extemporised Auxiliary Isolation Hospital at "Pinehurst," Ellenborough Park South. (See Evacuation p. 25).

The accompanying table gives particulars of the 229 admissions during 1940. The number both of the cases and of the diseases from which the patients were suffering was greater than in any previous year, including 1939, owing partly to a heavy incidence of diphtheria and scarlet fever, and partly to admitting 81 evacuee and service cases.

PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING 1940.

| Diseases | Residents and Visitors. | Evacu- ees | Army & R.A.F. | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------|
| Diphtheria | 38 | 10 | — | 48 |
| Diphtheria Carriers | 3 | 2 | — | 5 |
| Scarlet Fever | 80 | 3 | 3 | 86 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | 5 | — | 1 | 6 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 2 | 3 | — | 5 |
| Babies with mothers | 1 | 2 | — | 3 |
| Encephalitis (after Mumps) | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Meningitis, Pneumococcal | 1 | 1 | — | 2 |
| Ant. Poliomyelitis | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Measles | 2 | 3 | — | 5 |
| German Measles | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| Chicken-pox | — | 11 | — | 11 |
| Gastro-enteritis | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Tonsillitis | 3 | — | 1 | 4 |
| Pemphigus | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Ringworm | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Impetigo | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Scabies | 2 | 27 | 2 | 31 |
| Observation, etc. | 4 | — | 1 | 5 |
| | 148 | 71 | 10 | 229 |

EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS.

Wassermann tests are made at Bristol University, but other pathological specimens are examined in the County Laboratory at Taunton. When in 1935 this Laboratory was removed from Weston to Taunton and it was no longer possible to insure quick reports on diphtheria swabs, Dr. A. T. F. Rowley undertook to examine urgent swabs in his private laboratory, and later in the General Hospital laboratory, acting in an honorary capacity and charging only expenses.

After the outbreak of war Dr. Rowley's pathological work for the General and Emergency Hospitals became very great, so that when in December, 1940, the number of urgent diphtheria swabs from the Borough began rapidly to increase, Dr. Rowley found that he was unable to continue their examination on an honorary basis. He suggested that he should deal with all the Borough pathological work

at a salary which would enable him to pay for necessary additional laboratory and other assistance. This was not surprising to the M.O.H., as both he and Dr. Rowley had hoped that sooner or later the Hospital laboratory would be fully used by the Borough. After negotiations, during which Dr. Rowley's invaluable services were fully and gratefully acknowledged, it was decided to ask the County Council to co-operate. At a meeting on August 26th with the County Medical Officer, he agreed to make a favourable recommendation to the County Council. As the M.O.H. retired at the end of August, he was not further concerned with the negotiations, but on October 14th, 1941, the County Council resolved to authorise an arrangement with the Weston-super-Mare Hospital authorities for the period of the war only, for the provision of laboratory facilities at the Hospital for making such urgent bacteriological examinations as may be required.

Tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY

The accompanying table shows the number and the age and sex distribution of the new cases notified, and of the deaths from tuberculosis during 1940

The new notifications numbered 54 (45 pulmonary and 9 non-pulmonary), as compared with 30 in 1939 and 45 in 1938

The deaths last year were 19 (13 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary), equivalent to a death-rate of 0.46 per 1,000 of the population as estimated by the Registrar-General. The tuberculosis death-rate was 0.42 in 1939 and 0.39 in 1938. The comparative rates for the whole county were 0.68 in 1940 and 0.63 in both 1939 and 1938.

TREATMENT.

The Tuberculosis Scheme for examination and treatment is administered by the County Council, but the receipt and record of notifications, visiting as regards environmental conditions and prevention, including disinfection (last year 51 rooms and 343 articles were disinfected), are duties devolving on the Borough Health Department, and could not be so conveniently and efficiently done by the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS: NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1940.

| AGE Periods in years. | CASES Notified, 1940. | | | | DEATHS occurring among Cases Notified in 1940. | | | | TOTAL DEATHS from Tuberculosis in 1940. | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|----------------|---------|---|---------|----------------|---------|--|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
| | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. | Male. | Female. |
| Under 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 1—4 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 2 |
| 5—14 | — | 4 | 2 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| 15—24 | 5 | 5 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 25—34 | 4 | 12 | 1 | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 3 | — | — |
| 35—44 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 2 | — | — |
| 45—54 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| 55—64 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | 1 |
| 65 and over | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 18 | 27 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | — | — | 5 | 8 | 3 | 3 |
| TOTALS | 45 | 9 | 54 | 5 | 5 | — | — | — | 13 | 6 | 19 | — |

Climatological Observations, 1940

For reasons of official secrecy the Meteorological Office of the Air Ministry stopped from the beginning of the war the issue to the Press or the public of any information about current meteorological observations. Accordingly the Medical Officer of Health ceased to telegraph the local observations daily to the Meteorological Office and to supply weekly summaries to the local Press, but the full monthly records were supplied to the Meteorological Office for statistical purposes.

On April 24th of the year under review, the Director of the Meteorological Office wrote that, in view of the widespread interest in the weather, arrangements had been made for the preparation each month of an official description of the weather of the month for issue to the Press, and asked that local observations of rainfall, and extremes of temperature for each month should be telegraphed to the Meteorological Office within four days of the end of the month.

Another communication of the same date stated that, in view of the approach of the holiday season, arrangements were under consideration by which weekly summaries of the weather at Health Resorts could be available to the Press and public after the elapse of seven days, and asking for weekly telegrams giving local observations as to sunshine, rain and temperatures.

These two series of reports had only just been put into operation, when on June 27th notice was received from the Meteorological Office that the whole of the new arrangements were cancelled.

Monthly Results of Climatological Observations, 1940.

TAKEN AT TOWN HALL AND CLARENCE PARK.

| 1940 Month | AIR TEMPERATURE. | | | | | | | Amount of Cloud 9 a.m. | RADIATION. | RAIN. | | SUN. Number of Hours. | Barometer 9 a.m. |
|---------------------|------------------|------|------|-------|------|----------|------|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | MEANS. | | | | | EXTREMES | | | | Amount Inches. | No. of days with .04 ins. or more | | |
| | 9 a.m. | Min. | Max. | Range | Mean | Min. | Max. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 31.3 | 27.0 | 37.7 | 10.7 | 32.3 | 10.8 | 49.3 | 6.0 | 24.2 | 2.97 | 9 | 82.5 | 30.073 |
| February | 39.0 | 35.2 | 44.9 | 9.7 | 40.0 | 23.1 | 58.7 | 7.5 | 32.9 | 2.08 | 10 | 28.6 | 29.833 |
| March | 43.8 | 38.5 | 51.4 | 12.9 | 44.9 | 24.9 | 62.3 | 4.7 | 34.9 | 2.47 | 9 | 140.1 | 29.903 |
| April | 50.2 | 43.7 | 56.6 | 12.9 | 50.1 | 30.0 | 75.2 | 5.5 | 40.3 | 2.47 | 13 | 127.2 | 29.983 |
| May | 57.0 | 48.4 | 63.5 | 15.1 | 55.9 | 42.1 | 68.5 | 4.3 | 45.3 | 2.58 | 8 | 225.1 | 29.999 |
| June | 63.8 | 54.4 | 71.5 | 17.1 | 62.9 | 48.9 | 84.1 | 3.0 | 50.4 | .92 | 5 | 275.5 | 30.080 |
| July | 61.7 | 53.9 | 66.3 | 12.4 | 60.1 | 46.9 | 75.2 | 4.9 | 51.4 | 4.03 | 15 | 189.5 | 29.908 |
| August | 63.2 | 55.9 | 70.1 | 14.2 | 63.0 | 46.1 | 79.9 | 4.1 | 53.3 | .23 | 2 | 224.6 | 30.164 |
| September | 58.5 | 51.4 | 66.1 | 14.7 | 58.7 | 41.1 | 81.8 | 3.0 | 48.4 | 2.52 | 10 | 183.2 | 30.140 |
| October | 50.9 | 45.5 | 57.5 | 12.0 | 51.5 | 32.9 | 64.3 | 5.8 | 42.5 | 4.50 | 15 | 79.6 | 29.838 |
| November | 47.5 | 42.8 | 52.5 | 9.7 | 47.6 | 27.0 | 58.1 | 4.8 | 39.8 | 7.45 | 16 | 78.0 | 29.731 |
| December | 41.0 | 37.3 | 45.6 | 8.3 | 41.4 | 26.2 | 54.9 | 6.2 | 34.4 | 2.17 | 9 | 46.1 | 30.139 |
| Means and Totals | 50.6 | 44.5 | 57.0 | 12.5 | 50.7 | 33.3 | 67.7 | 5.0 | 41.5 | 34.39 | 121 | 1680.0 | 29.982 |

ABSTRACT OF THE
Chief Sanitary Inspector's Annual
Report for the Year 1940.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year ended
31st December, 1940.

DRAINAGE OF THE DISTRICT.

There now exist in the area of your Borough 169 cess-pools, 17 pail closets, and 7 midden privies. These are practically all in the unsewered parts of the Borough.

COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS.

No cases were taken to the courts during the year.
Seven Statutory Notices were served.

HOUSING.

Owing to the generally disturbed conditions due to war effects routine "recorded housing inspections" have not been made and only such defects and dilapidations as were likely to interfere with the health of the people were dealt with. Action by the Department has been mostly by way of informal action. Six houses were reconditioned by way of formal action, eight informally, and a total of 75 houses were repaired under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

Nos. 4 & 5, Jubilee Path, were reconditioned under an "undertaking" on completion of the necessary works this undertaking was rescinded.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

The number of houses found to be vermin infested was 35 and the treatments applied were :—

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Primary | 35 |
| Preventative and Secondary | 90 |
| Treatments to rooms | 227 |

The methods of disinfection were :—Spraying with (1) Ratsouris (Ris). (2) Killgercide. (3) Zaldecide. (4) Use of fumigants :—(a) S.O.2. and (b) Thermatox, in conjunction with the above.

OVERCROWDING.

With the influx of evacuees and war workers, many cases of overcrowding had to be dealt with as occasion arose. Incidental overcrowding conditions were constantly changing. Owing to this factor and the cropping up of various incidental work it was found to be impossible to keep precise records. By the end of the year and with the co-operation of the Evacuation Dept. the overcrowding conditions were comparatively under control.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Apart from a few isolated instances no trouble was experienced from smoke emissions.

RAT AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Twenty-four premises were dealt with. Frequent observations were made at infested premises and at food-handling premises. Occupiers have been supplied with appropriate baits and advised according to the nature of the infestation. Your refuse tips have been regularly treated by baits and gassing by a Contractor and the rat infestation there reduced to safe and reasonable limits. The baits used were :—Barium Carbonate, Arsenic and Red Squill preparations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The number of premises on the Register is 253. Included in these are 31 power and non-power bakehouses.

The classification is as follows :—

Power factories 142. Non-power factories 111.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

(WELFARE CLAUSES).

The following requirement was carried out —

Washing facilities provided, 1

HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS

Owing to Defence restrictions very little holiday camping was undertaken during the year. The number of sites in use was 8.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 10 fish friers in the town. Of these, 5 are licensed annually. A gut scraper's business is carried on at the Public Abattoirs and there is a fellmonger's business established at Rickett's Lane, Worle.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

PARTICULARS OF REGISTER.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Number of Producers on the Register | | | 26 |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|

Number of distributors divided as follows :—
(including 32 who trade from outside the Borough)

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| A. Distributors only | | | | 103 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|

| | | | |
|--|-------|-------|----|
| B. Distributors who are also producers | | | 15 |
|--|-------|-------|----|

(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers).

Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—

| | | |
|---|-------|---|
| Supplementary Certified Tuberculin Tested | | 2 |
|---|-------|---|

| | | |
|---------------|-------|---|
| „ Pasteurised | | 1 |
|---------------|-------|---|

There is only one accredited milk producer in the district

The following milk samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination.

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Pasteurised | | | | | 3 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Accredited milk | | | | | 2 |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|

| | | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Herd milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli | | | | | 12 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|

ICE CREAM MAKERS AND SELLERS.

Particulars of Register :—

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| Makers only | | | | | 1 |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Vendors only | | | | | 86 |
|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Vendors and makers | | | | | 38 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----|

MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL.

Under the Ministry of Food Regional Slaughtering Scheme which came into operation on January 15th, the Public Abattoir was made the official "Slaughtering Place" for the area extending from and including Portishead, Clevedon, Bridgwater, Burnham, Highbridge, Glastonbury, Wells, Axbridge and the intervening rural area. Slaughtering is undertaken for a population, including evacuees and forces, of approximately 250,000.

The inspectional and administration duties have involved very heavy work and responsibility and time worked by your Superintendent, Inspectional and other Staff, who work under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Sanitary and Foods Inspector. Your District Inspector, Mr. C. E. Urch, has, during the year, been almost wholly employed at the Abattoir.

During the heavy killing periods it has been necessary to work early and late and on frequent occasions on Saturdays and Sundays. It is anticipated, as experience is gained that the time and period of allocation of animals for slaughter will be materially improved and which will result in eliminating the crowded periods which have been experienced during the early parts of control.

It can be observed from the records that the inspectional work has been carried out in a normal manner and as far as practicable in accordance with Memo. 62.

The work at the Abattoir has been carried out in close co-operation with the Government Officers and Agents.

The efficiency maintained has in no small degree been due to the tact and efficiency of your Superintendent, Mr. I. A. Stephenson. The Abattoir and Inspectional Staff has at all times given their best services under what have sometimes been difficult circumstances.

The following tables show the percentage of animals killed at the Abattoirs which were found by macroscopic inspection to be affected in some degree with tuberculosis and other diseases :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. |
|---|--------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Number killed | 7252 | 3448 | 47238 | 6021 |
| Number inspected | 7252 | 3448 | 47238 | 6021 |
| ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 21 | 1 | 94 | 47 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned | 790 | 2 | 1292 | 328 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis | 11.01 | 0.8 | 2.1 | 6.2 |
| TUBERCULOSIS ONLY. | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 78 | 7 | 0 | 26 |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | 1736 | 8 | 1 | 1808 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 24.8 | 0.43 | .002 | 30.4 |

ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1933 | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 |
| PIGS | | | | | | | |
| 4,695 | 4,357 | 4,528 | 4,718 | 4,413 | 3,964 | 3,653 | 6,091 |
| SHEEP | | | | | | | |
| 13,668 | 12,375 | 11,902 | 11,283 | 9,943 | 10,696 | 19,919 | 47,238 |
| CALVES | | | | | | | |
| 678 | 776 | 795 | 914 | 939 | 835 | 857 | 3,448 |
| BEASTS | | | | | | | |
| 1,039 | 1,172 | 1,440 | 1,439 | 1,313 | 1,183 | 1,365 | 7,252 |

DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIRS

[illegible]

DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

| Tuberculous :— | Tns. cwts. qrs. lbs. | | | | Tns. cwts. qrs. lbs. | | | |
|---|----------------------|----|---|----|----------------------|----|---|----|
| Beef and organs including 78 carcasses and 60 quarters | 38 | 3 | 0 | 9 | | | | |
| Pigs and organs including 26 carcasses | 10 | 3 | 0 | 19 | | | | |
| Calves | | 3 | 3 | 10 | | | | |
| | <hr/> | | | | 48 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Non-tubercular | | | | | | | | |
| Meat | 16 | 14 | 2 | 13 | | | | |
| | <hr/> | | | | 16 | 14 | 2 | 13 |
| Total weight of all meat condemned at Abattoir | | | | | 65 | 4 | 2 | 23 |
| Meat condemned at Purveyor's premises in the town :— | | | | | | | | |
| Beef and offals | | 3 | 3 | 9 | | | | |
| Mutton and lamb | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | | |
| Pork and offals | | | 2 | 18 | | | | |
| | <hr/> | | | | | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| Total weight of all meat condemned | | | | | 65 | 10 | 3 | 26 |

FOOD CONDEMNED FROM PREMISES IN THE TOWN.

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Sausage (beef and pork) | 29 lbs. |
| (crabs) | 2 barrels |
| (Shrimps) | 98 lbs. |
| Wet Fish (various) | 6 cwt. 18lbs. |
| Canned Foods— | |
| Fruit | 61 cans |
| Vegetables | 18 „ |
| Soup | 3 „ |
| Veal | 6 „ |
| Beef | 4 „ |
| Hams | 5 „ |
| Ox Tongues | 3 „ |
| Fish (various) | 49 „ |
| | <hr/> |
| TOTAL | 149 cans |
| | <hr/> |

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Mr. H. F. Hardiman, the Somerset County Food and Drugs Inspector, has kindly supplied the following statement of the samples of foods, drugs and drinks taken for analysis by the Public Analyst during 1940 :—

| Sample taken. | Result of Analysis. |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 46 Milk | Genuine. |
| 2 Sausages | „ |
| 2 Butter | „ |
| 2 Margarine | „ |
| 1 Jam | „ |
| 2 Whisky | „ |
| 55 Samples taken | |

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Mayor, and Members of the Council, the Medical Officer of Health and other Members of your Health Department Staff, and the other Council Officials, who have so kindly co-operated in the work of the Department.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. BLADON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.